

  


Brussels, 30 November 1999

13459/99 (Presse 384)  
P 119/99

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the occasion of the signing  
in Arusha of the agreement establishing the East African Community**

The European Union welcomes the establishment of the East African Community and commends its member countries for this great achievement.

The European Union is confident that the East African Community will create in the region a political and economic environment and mechanisms, which are conducive to peace, economic growth and prosperity of its member countries and their peoples.

The European Union wishes to express its readiness to co-operate with the East African Community and its member countries and to support them in various fields of their joint efforts.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta, and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.